

COUNCIL BRIEFS

August 28, 2015

24th annual Labor Day Concert: The Hartford Pops Band will be performing once again a repertoire of Hollywood hits, Broadway favorites and patriotic marches at the 24th annual Labor Day Concert on Monday, September 7, 5:00-7:00 PM, in the Town Hall parking lot. The concert is free and open to all. Snacks or picnic suppers are encouraged. The rain location is the Town Hall auditorium. Call 860-561-7510 for additional information.

Deadline approaches for tax exemption program: The Assessment Office is reminding honorably discharged veterans and active duty military persons that the filing period for the tax exemption program ends October 1. Resident veterans who already filed with the town for their exemption, do not need to file again.

Resident veterans who meet [the eligibility requirements](#) may apply for the exemption in the Assessment Office, room 142 of Town Hall. Call 561-7414 if you have questions.

Top placement in SWAT Challenge: The West Hartford Emergency Services Unit finished an amazing second place overall in the 2015 Connecticut SWAT Challenge. This year there were 30 teams from eight states, including the US Army 3rd Ranger Battalion, the United States Border Patrol SWAT Team, the Indiana State Police, Worcester, MA SWAT, and many other top tactical teams from across the country. The training events emphasized teamwork, physical fitness, communication, tactical proficiency, decision making, inter-agency familiarization, equipment utilization, tactical medical care, and firearms marksmanship. This is the 11th year of the training event and it was a joint effort by the North Central Emergency Service Team and Our Heroes Fund. Over \$14,000 was raised for officers in need.

New Library Director appointed: The West Hartford Public Library system has a new director, Martha Church. Martha is a lifelong resident of West Hartford who has served the

libraries for 35 years. Her talents are wide-ranging, including her heralded reference skills and enviable knowledge of West Hartford history. Always deeply involved with the library system, Martha has led book discussions, written numerous grants, developed multi-cultural programs, and initiated computer training courses. Martha has wasted no time transitioning into her role as our library's director. We wish her well!

Help slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer:

A green beetle has been causing havoc on Connecticut Ash trees and the Public Works Department wants you to call 860-561-8100 if you see one. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, green beetle that has green, iridescent wings and measures between 0.3 to 0.55 inches in length. EAB feed on ash trees almost exclusively. The green beetle borers into the tree and lays eggs. Individual trees tend to die within 2-3 years after becoming infested. A definite sign of the EAB is the presence of a D-shaped exit hole in the bark of an ash tree.

342 tickets issued during the Distracted

Driving campaign: The Police Department participated in the state DOT Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement campaign from August 3 to August 16, 2015. During the two-week period, 321 infractions were issued for distracted driving offenses, 17 for other motor vehicle violations, and four for marijuana.

Trash delay due to the holiday: Due to the Labor Day holiday on September 7, the collection of trash, recyclable, and bulky and metal waste will be delayed by one day all week. Monday's collections will be done on Tuesday; Tuesday's collections will be done on Wednesday, with each remaining day of the week during this week being one day later. Please visit www.painesinc.com or call Paine's at (860) 844-3000 with any questions.

Ronald F. Van Winkle
Town Manager